

FREDERICK COUNTY COMISSION ON AGING RETREAT MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
October 4, 2010

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Earl S. Beck, PhD	Margaret Nusbaum	David Gray, Comm		
Rae Ann Butler	Susan M. Ramsburg Recording Sec	Millard Haines		
Cristina Donahue- Taylor	Carolyn True	Lloyd Hoover		
Hal Ehart		Carol Krimm, Alderman		
Diane Julian		Patricia McGill		
Jim Judd		Virginia Skelley		
Ona M. John Kile				
Louise Lynch				
Burt Shawver				
Robert Wannemacher				
Stephen Wilhide				

- I. **Call to Order – Louise Lynch, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions –** Louise welcomed all attendees. One guest was present so introductions were done around the table.

10/4/2010

- III. Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the September 13, 2010 meeting were approved with one revision. Section VIII, paragraph 2 should read “Governor’s Summit will be held on Civic Engagement” instead of “educational summit will be held on How to Use Volunteers”. All were in favor.

- IV. Commissioner’s Report** – Commissioner Gray was not present at today’s meeting.

Alderman’s Report – Alderman Krimm was not present at today’s meeting.

- V. Forum Questions, Raeann Butler** – The subcommittee met the hour prior to today’s CoA meeting. The five questions should be drafted and ready for presentation to the current and newly elected commissioners two weeks prior to the forum on November 30th.

Expo Update, All – The Expo is at the Frederick Fairgrounds on Thursday, October 14th. Admission is free and lunch is free to citizens over the age of 60. Lunch can be purchased for those under 60. The CoA table will be next to the DoA table. The new CoA brochures have been printed and will be available to hand out during the Expo. The survey is also ready for distribution. Commission volunteers will be available to assist seniors complete the form. Exhibitors will be located in Bldg 9 and lunch seating will be available in Bldg 12. There is an article in the new Senior Living publication.

Nominations Committee, Earl Beck, - The Nominations Committee met prior to this meeting and two candidates were interviewed. Mary Rice and Debra Savageau both have geriatric backgrounds and are recommended by the committee. Steve Wilhide moved to accept the recommendation and motion was seconded by Burt Shawver. All approved these nominations.

Legislative package request, Louise Lynch – A request has been submitted to the state delegation. The CoA request is that “our Delegation be mindful of the urgency to preserve the current level of funding for State and local Department of Aging programs”. This request was sent to Joyce Grossnickle for potential submission as part of this year’s legislative package. This package has not been voted on by the BoCC for approval at this time.

- VI. Presentation about MoW 501(c)(3) status – Gail Wingate**– The purpose and mission of this alliance is to work with the MoW program to ensure that homebound seniors are not going without food. They will be helping to recruit volunteers and also doing some fundraising. They have recently received their 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. They will soon be working with the DoA to identify the needs of the

department's program. The process has been very similar to starting a business. Policies and procedures are being established. A grant application has been submitted for the purchase of hardware and software. A membership package is being developed. Current volunteers and families of MoW will become the first members. This group will be able to serve the younger disabled population which is something the DoA cannot accomplish because of funding mandates. Documentation has been submitted to the Secretary of State for charitable status. Information technology and marketing students from Mt St Mary's will be assisting by doing volunteer community work.

There are many needs in the DoA's MoW program. There are seniors in specific county regions that cannot currently be served by this program. These regional needs are being tracked on a map as they arise. There is also a basic lack of public awareness regarding this program and what services are being provided. The volunteers who go into the homes are also the eyes and ears for the department so that serious health issues can be avoided for the seniors.

There was some discussion regarding the questionnaire that has been developed to garner information from local seniors. This questionnaire should go out to any large senior groups. It will be available at the expo and the hope is to have a large response from that group. The information gathered will be used to support the request for a formal needs assessment. The information can also be used during the BoCC Forum in November.

Discussion concerning Civic Engagement Conference, Louise Lynch, Carolyn True- This conference focused on volunteering and using volunteers in ways which maximize their abilities. There are opportunities to work as legislative aides with some training. Volunteers bring a wealth of talent however it is sometimes difficult due to the need for flexible scheduling and specific skill sets. The way to be most successful with volunteers is to treat them as though they are an employee and match volunteer skills to specific company needs. Many retirees want to give back to the community by volunteering.

Discussion regarding how to recognize unmet needs, Steve Wilhide – Steve reported that he initiated discussion during the Executive Committee meeting on how to find out the exact needs of and exact resources for seniors in the community. He suggested that that should be a primary role of the commission. He elaborated on this point as follows. He said that this commission should be more active in changing the status quo. There should be a way to track what the unmet needs are in a more concrete way. If there is no documentation of needs, it is very difficult to ask for funds for those needs. There are wait lists for specific home care programs. There are other agencies in Frederick who are possibly aware of different types of unmet needs or

wait lists for services for older adults. Agents from these agencies should be invited to bring information to one of these monthly meetings. Once the information has been gathered and documentation has been attained, a report can be presented to the BoCC. The needs for frail seniors who are homebound are different than more active seniors. The Older Americans Act requires that our focus at this time should be on the older frail adult. This legislation is up for reconsideration next year.

There was some discussion on what should occur during the Executive Committee meeting. It was suggested that there should be a report from this committee. Ideas that are raised at the Executive Committee can be added to the agenda for discussion at the regular commission meeting.

Director's Report, Carolyn True – The department has applied for a diabetes awareness grant through the Community Foundation. There should be a decision made by December. The Movement in Motion class was included in a video with the Community Foundation which will be aired with the annual report in November.

A successful Senior Picnic was held in September. Over one hundred seniors participated.

The food bid is currently being advertised. A pre-bid meeting will be held on October 12th. and bids are due by 4:00 pm on October 26th.

Mia Brust, Ombudsman and Carolyn will be attending a program which will review the changes to the Ombudsman program. Funding and regional changes are being suggested. These changes if approved will be implemented statewide.

Early voting will be held again at the Frederick Senior Center. It will be October 22 through October 28, excluding Sunday. Polls will open at 10:00 am and close at 8:00 pm.

Flu shots will not be available at the Frederick Senior Center. There is a list available on the county website.

The most current Partner's in Care newsletter was distributed at today's meeting. Their needs are outnumbering the volunteer hours available. They need more drivers and are having funding issues. They also have a needs waiting list. Sarah, the PiC representative in Frederick, is always open to ideas for outreach, funding, and marketing opportunities.

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VII. Announcements, All -

Agenda items should be sent to Sue if you have something specific to be discussed at monthly meetings.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2: 50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

October 26, 2010 COA Executive Meeting, 1:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center

November 8, 2010 Commission on Aging, 1:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center, Frederick, MD 21702

November 30, 2010 – BoCC Forum, 1:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center, Frederick, MD 21702